

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound characterized in that it consists of a peptide is chosen from:

a peptide ~~represented by~~ consisting of the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 below:

SEQ ID No: 1 Lys-Ala-Lys-Pro-Val-Gln-Lys-Leu-Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Asp-Gly-Asp-Asp-Thr-Tyr-Lys-Glu-Glu-Arg-His-Asn-Lys

and

~~homologs of said peptide exhibiting at least 80% similarity with the sequence SEQ ID No: 1 and comprising from 20 to 30 amino acids,~~

a peptide consisting of the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 plus an additional N-terminal cysteine residue.

2 – 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~protein consisting of a~~ compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein said peptide is coupled to a carrier protein, and wherein the coupling to the carrier protein is by one of the following means: chemically coupling said peptide to said carrier protein; or by the addition of a DNA coding sequence of said peptide before or after a DNA coding sequence of said carrier protein and expressing and purifying the resulting fusion protein.

7 – 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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22. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 21, wherein it is a vaccine.

23 – 28 (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1 comprising the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of said peptide or said homologs.